

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 94-473-C - ORDER NO. 95-14 ✓  
JANUARY 5, 1995

IN RE: Proceeding to Examine Time Limits on    ) ORDER  
      Calls Originated from Pay Telephones.    ) GRANTING  
  ) MOTION  
  )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the December 21, 1994 Motion of Pay-Tel Communications, Inc. (Pay-Tel) to withdraw its intervention in the present Docket, and for the Commission to establish a related Docket.

On August 9, 1994, this Commission entered its Notice, establishing the present Docket. While the Notice excepted "those pay telephones located in low income areas wherein the 10¢ coin rate is required," according to Pay-Tel, it was unclear whether this Docket would apply to automated collect-only local calling from confinement facilities (inmate telephone service).

Automated collect-only local calling is apparently currently allowed from confinement facilities at a rate of 10¢ per call plus the applicable LEC operator surcharge for local collect calling. According to Pay-Tel, while local coin calls placed from confinement facilities are paid for by the inmate population, local collect calls are, by definition, billed only to individuals

or companies with sufficient financial stability to maintain an account in good standing with the local exchange company. Pay-Tel believes that it would be in the public interest for the Commission to consider allowing inmate telephone service providers to charge on a usage-sensitive basis. Pay-Tel further believes that this issue would be best dealt with not in the present Docket, but in a related Docket created for this specific purpose. Pay-Tel so moves, and also moves withdrawal of its intervention from the present Docket.

The Commission has examined this matter and agrees with the reasoning as stated by Pay-Tel. The Commission believes that the question of usage sensitive charging with regard to inmate telephone service providers is a matter which should be dealt with in a separate Docket. The Commission also believes that Pay-Tel should be allowed to withdraw its intervention from the present Docket. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Pay-Tel is hereby allowed to withdraw its intervention from the present Docket.


2. A Docket shall be established to deal with the question of allowing inmate telephone service providers to charge on a usage-sensitive basis.

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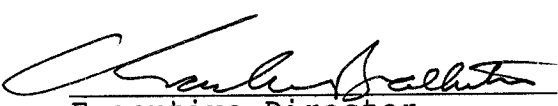
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3. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ACTING Chairman

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

(SEAL)